



No. 13 of 2025

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2025 Review of Accommodation and Meal Allowances for Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has conducted a review of Determination 8 of 2024 which provides for accommodation and meal allowances payable to Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
2. As explained in this report, the Tribunal has determined to increase the rate of the allowances by 1.17%, excluding that relating to Sydney travel. The Tribunal has also determined to create a new reimbursable allowance which provides for lunch for same day interstate travel.
3. Accordingly, the Tribunal has issued a new Determination, effective 1 January 2026.

BACKGROUND

4. Sections 3A(2), 3A(3) and 4(2)(a) of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990 (SA)* (**PR Act**) in conjunction with section 14 of the *Remuneration Act 1990 (SA)* (**Act**) provide the Tribunal with the jurisdiction to set the remuneration payable to Members of Parliament.
5. These provisions have previously been used by the Tribunal to establish allowances to cover the costs of commercial accommodation and meals associated with official travel by Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
6. As required by section 8 of the Act, the Tribunal has conducted its annual review of these allowances.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

7. On 9 October 2025, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 30 October in respect of this review from:
 - a. The Honourable Premier of South Australia – as the Minister responsible for the Act who may make submissions or introduce evidence in the public interest;
 - b. Members of Parliament;
 - c. The Treasurer; and
 - d. The Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.
8. The Tribunal also advertised its intention to review this, and other determinations applicable to Members of Parliament, on its website from 9 October 2025. Affected persons were invited to make submissions by 30 October 2025.

9. On 10 October 2025 the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption confirmed that no submission would be made.
10. On 20 October 2025, the Premier's representative confirmed that no submission would be made.
11. No other submissions were received in respect of this review.

CONSIDERATION AND CONCLUSION

12. In considering its review of the allowances, the Tribunal has had regard to the following economic data relevant to the costs of commercial accommodation and meals:
 - a. The Consumer Price Index (All groups Adelaide) shows the following percentage changes from the corresponding quarters of previous years:
 - i. 2.5% for December 2024
 - ii. 2.2% for March 2025
 - iii. 1.8% for June 2025
 - iv. 2.5% for September 2025
 - b. As at November 2025 the Reserve Bank of Australia forecast of the Consumer Price Index was as follows:
 - i. 2.1% for June 2025
 - ii. 3.3% for December 2025
 - iii. 3.7% for June 2026
 - iv. 3.2% for December 2026
 - c. The Australian Taxation Office Taxation Determination TD 2025/4 (**ATO Determination**), which for taxation purposes sets reasonable accommodation, meal, and incidental expenses for the 2025-26 income year is also relevant. The Tribunal has noted the following percentage changes from the previous financial year's taxation determination, for the highest earners:
 - i. 0% increase to accommodation costs for Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne and Perth
 - ii. 12% increase to accommodation costs for Sydney
 - iii. 2.55% increase to breakfast costs
 - iv. 2.58% increase to lunch costs
 - v. 2.58% increase to dinner costs
 - vi. 2.33% increase to incidentals
 - vii. Overall, 1.07% to 7.80% increase for daily total (which includes accommodation, meals and incidentals)
13. The Tribunal continues to adopt a cautionary approach to inflationary movements.
14. Having regard to these factors, the Tribunal has decided that the allowances should be increased by 1.17%, with effect from 1 January 2026. The exception to this general increase relates to Sydney travel which will remain unchanged.
15. Consistent with the concerns the Tribunal has expressed in previous reports, the travel allowance for Sydney travel remains higher than that provided in the ATO Determination. However, that disparity has narrowed because the ATO Determination increased the Sydney accommodation allowance by 12%.

16. The Tribunal has noted the increased meal allowances in the ATO Determination has also reduced the disparity between the allowances provided for by the ATO Determination and those available to Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
17. The Tribunal will review its position on these allowances next year and is open to receiving submissions.
18. The Tribunal has also determined to create an allowance to reimburse Ministers, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition for lunch expenses when they undertake same day interstate travel. The allowance of up to \$27.13 will be reimbursed based on actual expenditure and is only available for interstate travel where the departure and return is on the same day.
19. While submissions were not sought on this change, it was considered appropriate to create consistency between the meal and accommodation allowances available to the Judiciary, Statutory Officers and Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
20. The Determination giving effect to this Report will come into effect on 1 January 2026.



Matthew O'Callaghan
PRESIDENT



Donny Walford
MEMBER



Mark Young
MEMBER

Dated: 9 December 2025